National Hispanic Heritage Month

Current as of 23 August 2004

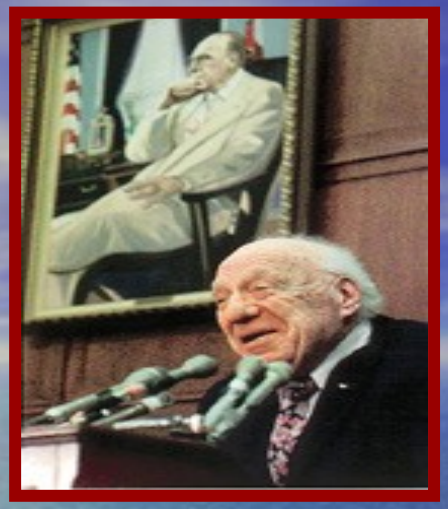
Who's who of the Century and Military Firsts

POLITICS

LOLA RODRÍGUEZ DE TIÓ , a Puerto Rican patriot and poet, she was the first Hispanic woman sent into political exile in 1887 for her participation in the Puerto Rican independence movement from Spain.

DENNIS CHÁVEZ , in 1935 became the first Hispanic elected to the U.S. Senate, and held that Senate seat until his death in 1962. Chávez introduced the Fair Employment Practices Bill, an important predecessor of the Civil Rights Act.

POLITICS



HENRY B. GONZÁLEZ , in 1985 became the first Mexican-American in more than a century to be elected to the Texas State Senate. In 1961, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served there until December 1998, becoming one of the longest tenured representatives in U.S. History. He died Nov 2000

JOSEPH MONTOYA

The late U.S. senator from New Mexico, was elected to the State Senate in 1940, and the U. S. House of Representatives in 1957. He became a senator in 1970, was a member of the Senate committee that investigated Watergate, and was one of the sponsors of the bilingual education acts passed by Congress in 1968 and 1974.

POLITICS

In 1983 became the first Hispanic Mayor of Denver, Colorado. In 1992, when President Clinton chose Peña to head the U.S. Department of Transportation, he became the first Hispanic to hold that position; and in 1997, he became the first Hispanic to serve as U.S. Secretary of Energy.

FEDERICO PEÑA

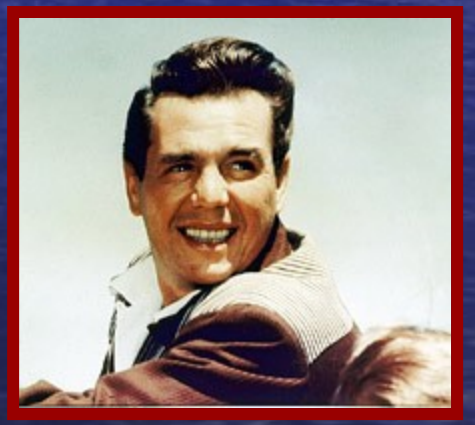
BILL RICHARDSON

In 1992 became the first Hispanic in congressional history to serve in a House leadership position, serving as chief deputy whip. He later was appointed U.S. ambassador to the United

ENTERTAINMENT

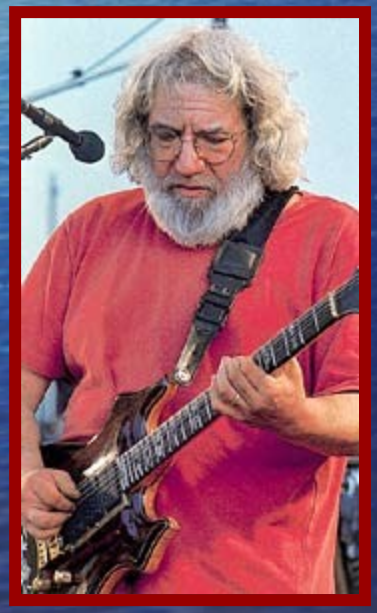
RITA HAYWORTH was born Margarita Carmen Cansino on October 17, 1918. She made her screen debut in 1935. She was the first Hispanic actress to be considered a model of American beauty, dubbed *"The Great American Love Goddess."* In 1952 was the

DESI ARNAZ in 1951 was the first Latino to be the star of a television comedy, when he began his nine-year role as I Love Lucy's Ricky Ricardo. The Cuban actor's big break came in 1939, when he starred in the musical Too Many Girls and met his future wife and co-star, Lucille



ENTERTAINMENT

PLACIDO DOMINGO, Spanish operatic tenor, is best noted for his warm voice and his interpretation of lyric roles in Italian opera. Among his most famous roles are Don José in Carmen, Canio in Pagliacci, and Pinkerton in Madame Butterfly.



JERRY GARCIA was best known as lead singer and guitarist of the psychedelic rock group, The Grateful Dead, whose popularity resulted in a cult of followers called "Deadheads." García, of Mexican descent, was ranked among the top 10 money-making Latino performers when he died in 1995.

ENTERTAINMENT

Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla Perez, known simply as Selena, was born on April 16, 1971 in Lake Jackson, Texas. Selena became the most popular tejano performer around and a major force in Latin music, though still largely unknown among Anglo audiences. On March 31, 1995 Yolanda Saldivar, the president of Selena's fan club, shot and killed the young singer during a financial dispute.

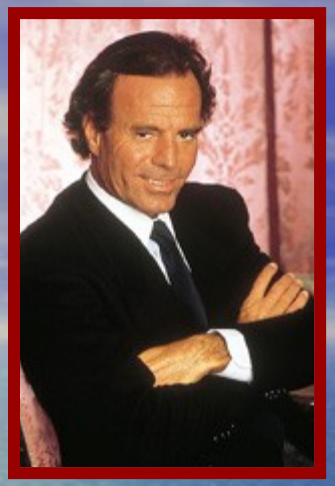
The son of an accomplished mariachi violinist; World Famous Electric Guitar Player, Carlos Santana was born in Autlan de Navarro, Mexico, in 1947. Santana's resurgence culminated with a sweep of the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards on February 23, 2000. That night, Santana and *Supernatural* won Grammy's in nine categories

ENTERTAINMENT

Celia Cruz, born in Havana, Cuba in Oct 21, 1924, died July 16, 2003 in Fort Lee, New Jersey. She was one of Latin Music's most respected vocalists. She was a 10 time Grammy nominee. A street in Miami was renamed in her honor.

Celia, trademark orange, red, and white polka dot dress and shoes have been placed in permanent collection at the Smithsonian Institute of Technology. She received honorary doctorates degrees from Yale and Miami Universities.

ENTERTAINMENT



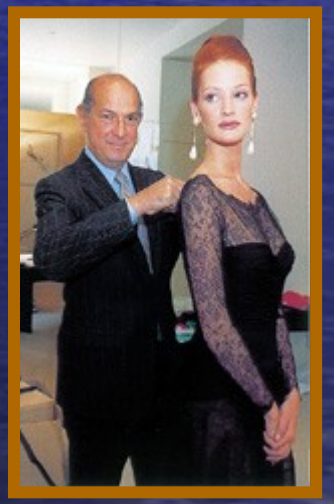
JULIO IGLESIAS was the most popular Latin singer of the '70s and '80s, selling over 100 million albums around the world. Known for his smooth, romantic style, he has performed worldwide and has sung in many languages, including Spanish, English, Italian and French.

ANTHONY QUINN's film career has spanned more than half a century and includes over 150 films. He is the winner of two Oscars for best supporting actor (for ¡Viva Zapata!, 1952, and Lust for Life, 1956), is a painter with many exhibitions, and has written his autobiography. He died 3

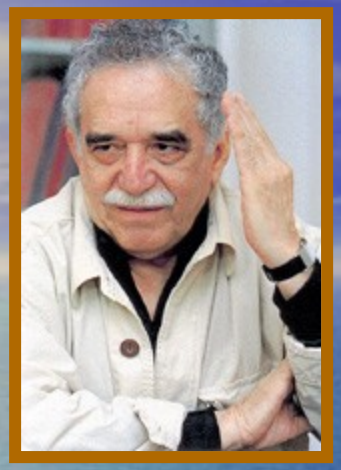
WRITERS & ARTISTS

GABRIELA MISTRAL became Latin America's first Nobel Peace prize winner for poetry. She served many years in the U.S. as an ambassador to the League of Nations and the United Nations for Chile.

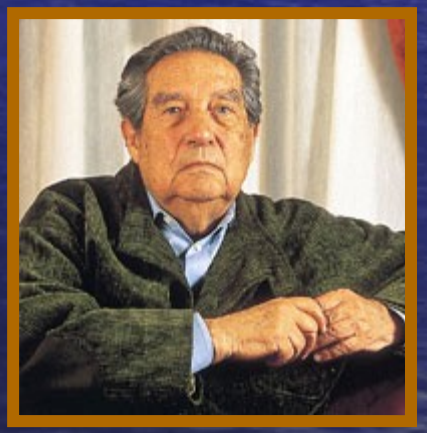
OSCAR DELA RENTA, an internationally acclaimed fashion designer known for his lines of women's clothing, started his own company in 1965. His designs have been worn by women such as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Hillary Clinton.



WRITERS & ARTISTS



GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ, Colombian novelist, short-story writer, and journalist, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. His two masterpieces, ***One Hundred Years of Solitude*** and ***Love in the Time of Cholera***, present his main themes of violence, solitude, and the human need for love, as well as his style, a combination of realism and fantasy.



OCTAVIO PAZ in 1990 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. The Mexican poet and critic is best-known for his depth of insight, elegance, and erudition. While primarily a poet, Paz won the most fame for his meditation on Mexican culture, ***The Labyrinth of Solitude***.

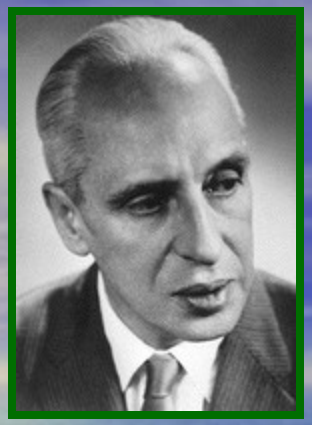
WRITERS & ARTISTS

SALVADOR DALI by 1929 had become a leader in surrealism. Among his best-known works is “Persistence of Memory.” Dali also made surrealist ventures in films, advertising, and the ballet.

PABLO PICASSO, Spanish painter, sculptor, graphic artist and ceramist, is generally considered the foremost figure in 20th century art. His 80-year career was marked by a wide range of styles, including his “blue period” and his development of Cubism, as well as his masterpieces such as “Guérnica,” “Les Demoiselles d'Avignon” and “Mediterranean Landscape.”

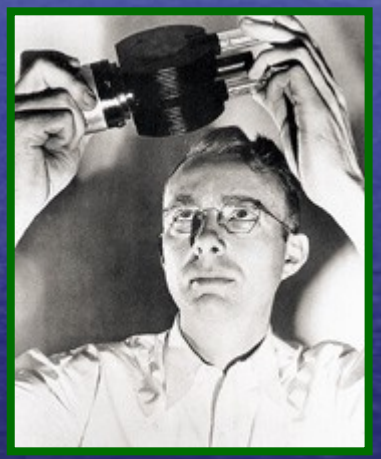
DIEGO RIVERA, mural painter and husband of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, was actively engaged in the artistic and political revolutions of his time. Many of his murals deal with the life, history, and social problems of Mexico, and in the United States, he is known for his

MEDICINE & SCIENCE



SEVERO OCHOA, a biochemist, physician and professor, in 1959 became the first Latino to win a Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discovery of the enzymes that help produce nucleic acids and allow scientists to synthesize RNA and DNA.

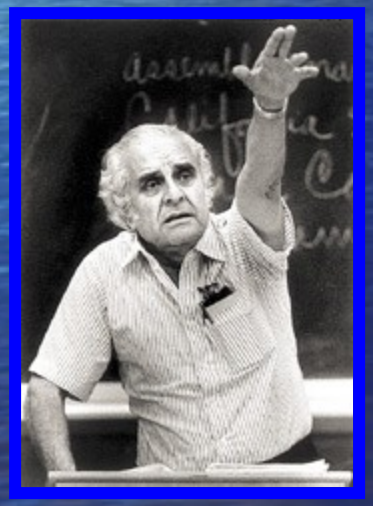
LUIS ALVAREZ in 1968 became the first U.S.-born Hispanic to win the Nobel Prize in Physics for his research on subatomic particles. Alvarez and his son developed the theory that the extinction of dinosaurs was due to the crash of a giant meteor into Earth.



MARIO MOLINA in 1995 shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for work that led to an international ban on chemicals believed to be depleting the ozone layer.

SOCIAL ACTIVISM

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ, born into a family of migrant workers, is revered for creating in 1965 the United Farm Workers union, the largest of any farm worker union. By launching a huge boycott against table grape growers, he forced them to agree to a union contract in 1970. In 1972, the UFW, with Chávez as president, became a member union of the AFL-CIO. He died in April 1993.



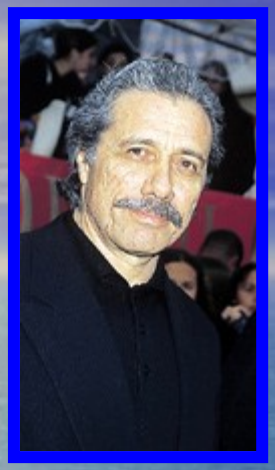
BERT CORONA in 1937 became one of the founders of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. He was one of the main organizers of the Mexican American Political Association, a civil rights organization that fought against racism toward Hispanics.

SOCIAL ACTIVISM

DR. HÉCTOR GARCÍA PÉREZ, founder of the American G.I. Forum, became the first Hispanic to be awarded the U.S. Medal of Freedom in 1984 for his work on behalf of civil rights for Hispanics. He died in 1996.

DR. ANTONIA C. NOVELLO was the first woman, and first Hispanic, appointed Surgeon General of the U.S. in 1990, by President George Bush.

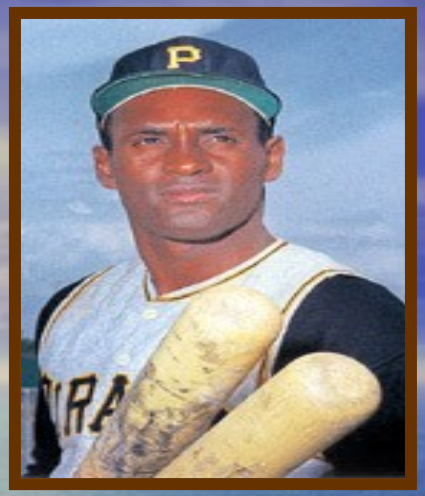
SOCIAL ACTIVISM



EDWARD JAMES OLMOS, community activist, producer, director and Academy Award-winning actor is executive director of a national gang prevention program funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, and is the U.S. Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF. He also is a producer of "Americanos: Latino Life in the United States," a multi-media project launched this year.

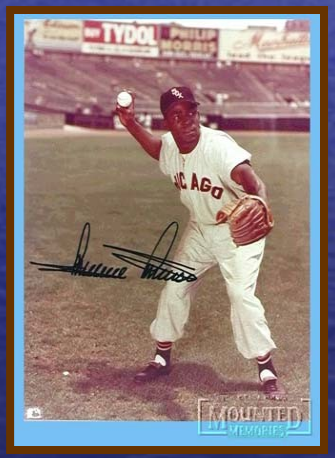
RAUL YZAGUIRRE for more than 35 years has been a key national player on behalf of Hispanic Americans. He is the president of the National Council of La Raza, the largest constituency-based national Latino organization.

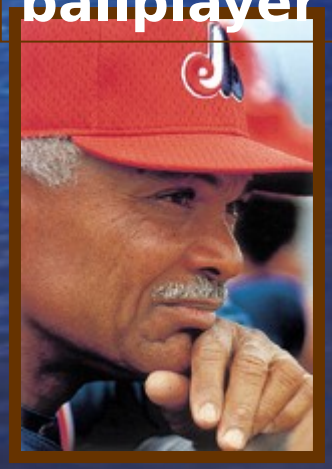
SPORTS



ROBERTO CLEMENTE, a Hall of Famer, became the National League's MVP in 1966 and the World Series MVP in 1971. Playing his entire major league career with the Pittsburgh Pirates, he reached the 3,000-hit peak, had a lifetime batting average of .317, and hit 240 home runs.

MINNIE MIÑOSO in 1951 became the first Hispanic ballplayer in professional U.S. baseball to steal the most bases (31) in a season. With a lifetime batting average of .299, 186 home runs and 205 bases stolen, Miñoso was an active ballplayer during four decades.



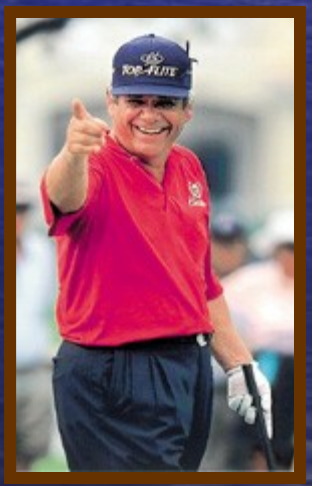


In 1995, as manager of the Montreal Expos, **FELIPE ALOU** became the first Latino to win baseball's Manager of the Year. He is now the manager for the San Francisco Giants.

SPORTS

CHI CHI RODRÍGUEZ in 1963 became the first Hispanic golfer to win the Denver Open. He went on to win seven more major tour victories and PGA Tour earnings of over $1 million. He discovered golf working as a caddy for tourists in his native Puerto Rico.

LEE TREVIÑO, Mexican American golfer, won the U.S. Open twice (1968 and 1971), the British Open twice (1971 and 1972), the PGA Championship twice (1974 and 1984), and the 1990 Senior Open Championship. He became the first golfer in history to win the British, Canadian and U.S. Open in the same year.

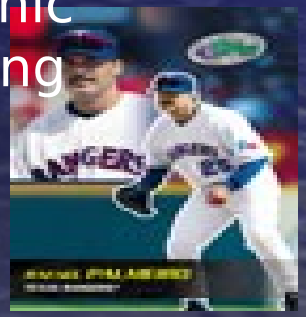


SPORTS

NANCY LOPEZ, became the first Hispanic to win the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tournament.

REBECCA LOBO was the first Hispanic woman to win an Olympic gold medal in basketball at the 1996 Olympics.

Rafael Palmerio, born in Havana, Cuba becam
19th player and the second Hispanic
to hit 500 Home Runs while playing
First Base for the Texas Rangers
Baseball Team on May 12, 2003.



SPORTS

Hispanics have made some of their greatest contributions in sports. Among the baseball greats are Hall of Famers Martin Dihigo, Juan Marichal, Luis Aparicio, Rod Carew, Orlando Cepeda, Buck Canel and Jaime Jarrin.

And who can forget Chico Cubs Sammy Sosa's spectacular 1998 season, when He broke Roger Maris' home run record in a hot race with Mark McGwire? He became the first Hispanic to hit over 500 Home Runs.

How about Alex Rodriguez, T
Rangers, the $ 251 Million D an,
now a NY Yankee....

SPORTS

In football, Cincinnati Bengal Anthony Munoz was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame i

Currently there are no Hispanic Head Coaches in Pro Football, however, there are 4 assistant football coaches so there is progress.

BUSINESS

KATHERINE D. ORTEGA became the first woman to serve as president of a California bank. She later became the Treasurer of the U.S. under President Ronald Reagan.

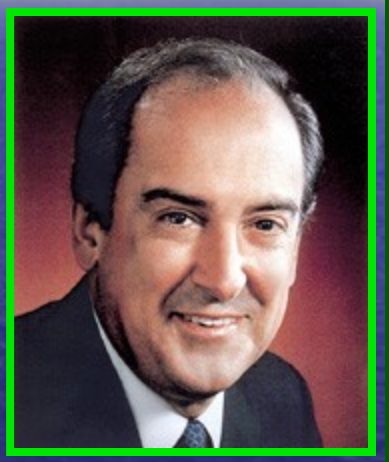
LINDA ALVARADO is one of the owners of the Colorado Rockies baseball team and owns her construction company. She was one of four women to win the 1993 Sara Lee Corporation's Frontrunner Award.

JOSEPH A. UNANUE, owner and president of Goya foods, the largest Hispanic-owned food company in the United States, was recognized in 1996 as one of the wealthiest Hispanic corporate leaders, with a net worth of

BUSINESS

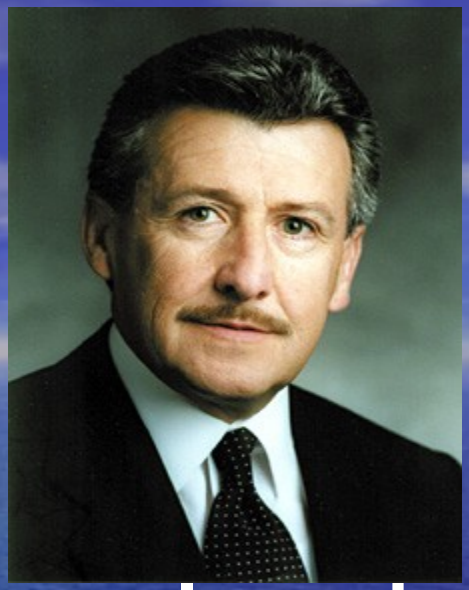
SOLOMON TRUJILLO is president, CEO and chairman of U.S. West, a $26 billion company that provides local and long distance telecommunications services to more than 25 million customers in fourteen states.

ROBERTO C. GOIZUETA was the CEO of the Coca-Cola Company, where he had begun working in 1954 as a quality-control chemist at the Havana subsidiary. In 1996 he was named the nation's wealthiest Hispanic corporate leader, with a net worth of $574 million.



EMILIO ESTEFAN is chairman of Estefan Enterprises and president of artist development for Sony Music Entertainment Inc. The five-time Grammy winner is the owner of Bongos Cuban Café and Larios on the Beach restaurants, as well as

BUSINESS

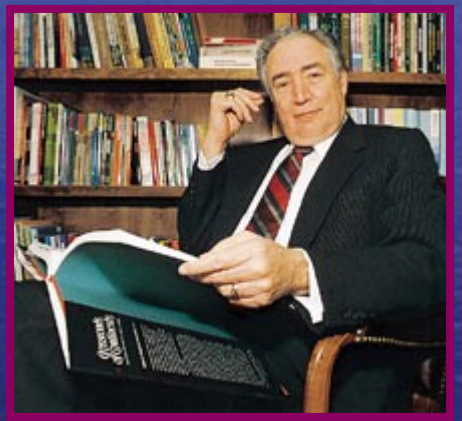


Arturo Moreno loves baseball. However, he made baseball history this year without putting on a uniform. Last May, he became the first Latino to own a major professional team outright when he purchased 2002 World Series champions, the Anaheim Angels, from the Walt Disney Co. for $184 million. Major league baseball's owners approved the sale unanimously .

EDUCATION

JAIME ESCALANTE in 1988 became the first Hispanic teacher to be the subject of a Hollywood feature film. “Stand and Deliver” was based on his non-traditional way of teaching advanced math in a Los Angeles city school.

LAURO F. CAVAZOS, a medical doctor and researcher, became the first Hispanic U.S. secretary of education in 1988, and was instrumental in the creation of the President’s Council on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. He also served as president of Texas Tech University.



DR. AMERICO PAREDES, folklorist, writer and teacher, became the first Hispanic scholar to be awarded the Charles Frankel Prize in 1989 for his contribution to the humanities. He has served as

MILITARY FIRST

1776: FRANCIS SALVADOR, a financier from Charleston, South Carolina was the first Sephardic Jewish hero of the American Revolution. He was from a refugee family that abandoned Spain because of persecution from the Inquisition.

1779: JORGE FARRAGUT, a seaman born on the Spanish island of Minorca, joined the South Carolina Navy and fought at the battle of Savannah and at the second defense of Charleston. Farragut is thought to be one of the first Hispanic Revolutionary War heroes.

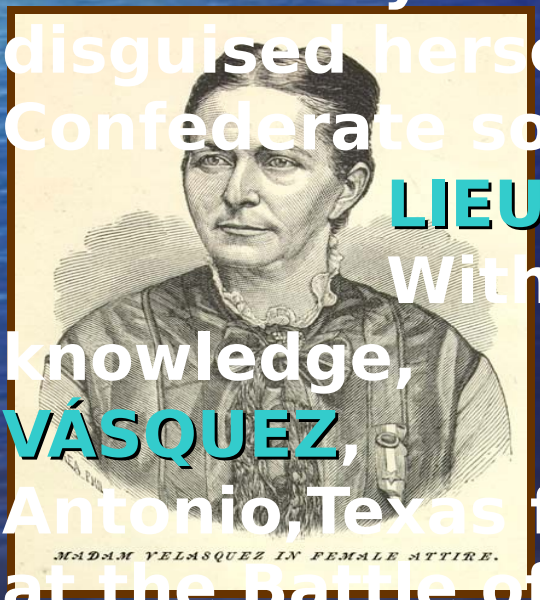
Medal of Honor

40 Hispanics, starting with Private
Joseph H. De Castro in 1864, and so far ending with Alfred Rascon, have received this nation’s highest
award for bravery. The

MILITARY FIRST

1863: The First Battalion of Navy Cavalry was the first Hispanic battalion formed during the Civil War. The unit was formed to take advantage of the extraordinary horsemanship of Mexican Americans.

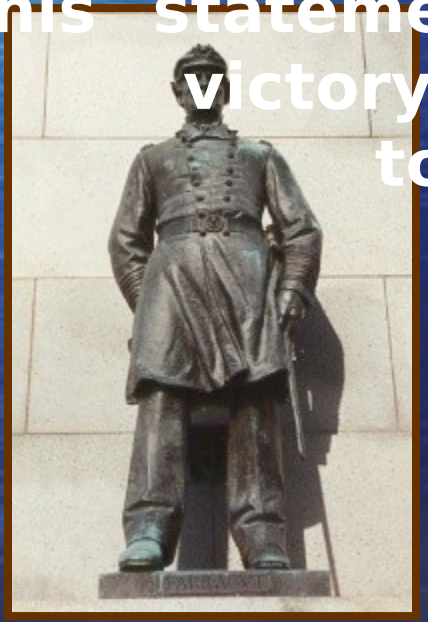
1864: The first Hispanic female spy in U.S. history was a Cuban-born woman who disguised herself as a Confederate soldier and served as **LIEUTENANT HARRY BUFORD**. Without her husband's knowledge, **LORRETA JANET VÁSQUEZ**, from San Antonio, Texas fought at the Battle of Bull Run.

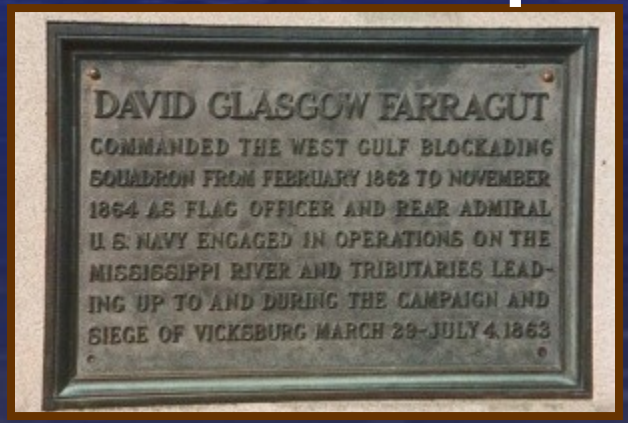


MILITARY FIRST

1864: DIEGO ARCHULETA became the first Hispanic brigadier general of the U.S., commanding the Mexican militia during the Civil War.

1866: DAVID G. FARRAGUT, the son of a Spanish immigrant, was the first admiral of the U.S. Navy. Farragut is known for his statement made after the victory of Mobile, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"




DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT
COMMANDED THE WEST GULF BLOCKADING SQUADRON FROM FEBRUARY 1862 TO NOVEMBER 1864 AS FLAG OFFICER AND REAR ADMIRAL U.S. NAVY ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES LEADING UP TO AND DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND SIEGE OF VICKSBURG MARCH 29-JULY 4 1863

On 26 July 1866, became the first 4-Star Hispanic Admir in the Navy.

MILITARY FIRST

1918: PRIVATE MARCELINO SERNA of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the first Hispanic to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in World War I.

1943: PRIVATE JOSE P. MARTINEZ of Taos, New Mexico, was the first Hispanic to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in World War II.

1952: COLONEL MANUEL J. FERNANDEZ JR., was the first Hispanic flying ace who logged 125 combat missions during the Korean War.

MILITARY FIRST

1964: HORACIO RIVERO, born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, was the second Hispanic 4-Star Admiral in modern Navy time.

1976: RICHARD E. CAVAZOS, from Kingsville, Texas, was the first Hispanic 4 Star general in the U.S.

**Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Fi
Hispanic Female
Astronaut**

MILITARY FIRST

Lieutenant General
Ricardo S. Sanchez
"Tejano"
Commanding General,
V Corps

Lt General Ricardo S. Sanchez from Rio Grande City,Texas was promoted to be the top military officer In Iraq by President George W. Bush in June 2003. General Sanchez is a graduate of Texas A & I University, Kingsville,Tx.

MILITARY FIRST

1979: EDWARD HIDALGO was the first Hispanic to serve as Secretary of the U.S. Navy. Hidalgo was born in Mexico City and immigrated to the U.S. as a child.

1981: EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR., Deputy Director of the Veterans Administration, was the first Hispanic appointed to the position.

1996: The U.S. Navy christened the guided missile destroyer "Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez" after a Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in Vietnam.

MILITARY FIRST

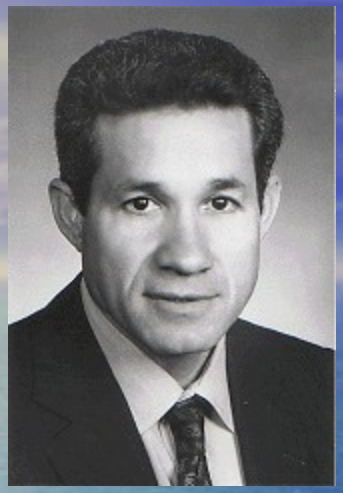
2001: The U.S. Navy christened a Military Sealift Command Ship the "USNS Benavidez" after Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient Roy Benavidez, who died in Nov 1998.

2001: US Air Force Academy Graduate, Lt. C Edward Cabrera, (from East LA) F-22 Test Pil becomes the Squadron Commander of the n Air Force F-22 Squadron at Edwards AFB, CA

MILITARY

Carlos Noriega is a Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and an Astronaut. Selected by NASA in December 1994, Noriega reported to the Johnson Space Center in March 1995. He has flown on two STS Shuttle Missions and is scheduled to fly on his third mission later this year. He was born in Lima, Peru, but considers California his home.

Govenment Service



Frank Tejeda was born on October 2, 1945. At age 17 he dropped out of High School to join the Marines. Mr. Tejeda earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Vietnam. He earned a high school equivalency diploma and maintained one of the highest grade-point averages ever recorded in Officer Candidate School. He went on to graduate from St. Mary's University in San Antonio,Tx he then received a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and an advanced law degree from Yale in 1989. Mr. Tejeda served in the Texas State House from 1977 to 1986 representing Bexar County. He was a state senator from 1987 to 1992. By 1992, Senator Tejeda had become so popular no one challenged his run for U. S. Congress. He served as congressman from 1992 until 1995. Mr. Tejeda became a champion of both veterans and those still enlisted in the service. Mr. Tejeda died on January 29, 1997.

Government Service

Michael L. Dominguez is Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Washington, D.C. A political appointee confirmed by the Senate, Dominguez is a West Point Graduate.

Michael Montelongo is Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. A political appointee confirmed by the Senate, Montelongo is a West Point Graduate and the Senior Hispanic in the Air Force.

Government Service

In 1981, Cisneros became the first Hispanic mayor of a major U.S. city when he was elected Mayor of San Antonio, Texas the nation's 10th largest city. He also served as Secretary of HUD, during President Clinton’s term of office.

Cruz Bustamante, from the Fresno, California area, became the 45th Lieutenant Governor for the state o California (Note: He ran for Govern lost and is still Lt Governor again.

Government Service

White House photo by Tina Hager

Dr. Richard Carmona has been appointed to the position of Surgeon General by President George W. Bush. He will be the 17th Surgeon General of the United States. He has been an Army Green Beret in Vietnam, a police officer, a SWAT team member and a nurse. In May 2002 Dr. Carmona was honored by the University of Arizona in Tucson when he was presented with the Alumnus of the Year Award.

CREDITS:

1. *DEOMI Heritage Series Pamphlet 00-6*
2. *www.vistamagazine.com and www.hisp.com*
3. *SFC Afredo Lino, US Army*
3. *Leon.Contreras@carswell.af.mi*

Contact: Leon Contreras, NAS JRB,Fort Worth,Tx
(DSN: 739-3261)